

A Treatise on Diseases of the Skin. For the use of advanced Students and Practitioners. By Henry Stelwagon, M. D., Ph. D., Professor of Dermatology, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. Eighth edition, thoroughly revised. Octavo of 1309 pages, with 356 text-illustrations, and 33 full-page colored and half-tone plates. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1916. Cloth, \$6.50 net; Half Morocco, \$8.00 net.

This well known text and reference book, editions of which in the past few years have not been strictly up to date, has been greatly improved in its eighth edition. It is earnestly hoped that future revisions will see continued improvement in this direction. The book has long been most widely used in English speaking countries and is one of great value to medical students and practitioners. H.E. A.

Text-Book of Ophthalmology. By Hofrat Ernst Fuchs. Authorized translation from twelfth German edition; revised, with additions, etc., by Alexander Duane. 462 illustrations. Fifth edition. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1917. Price, \$7.00.

Any reviewer will approach this book with a feeling of reverence. He expects to find the clearest description of disease, the most concise reasoning, the most illuminating insight, the most literary medical phraseology—and he is not disappointed. The book is a classic in ophthalmology, as Billroth was in surgery, Virchow in pathology and Foster in physiology. In its translation Duane has accomplished wonders. As nearly as any translation can, it gives the spirit of the original.

In this edition Duane has been more than translator. Nearly every page finds some comment in small type distinguished by the letter D consisting of some statement regarding new facts on the subject or some new theory concerning it. By these means, Duane has brought the book up to date. Not only that, but he has supplied some entirely new material which may be mentioned: the remarks on tuberculin and vaccine therapy, the visual field and color testing, the mapping of scotomata and the blind spot, squirrel plague and eel's blood conjunctivitis, Samoan conjunctivitis, peculiarities of conjunctivitis in the Near East, extragenital gonococcus infection, inclusion blennorrhoea, the etiology of trachoma, blastomycetic dermatitis, superficial linear keratitis, sclerosis of the chorioid, suppurative chorioiditis, Elliot's summary of glaucoma theories, retinitis stellata, retinitis exudativa, and angiomatosis retinae, the different forms of retinal degeneration, the varieties of accommodative troubles other than paralysis, and the newer operations.

The section on refraction is in many respects the clearest to be found in any text-book on the subject although it fills only a small part of the whole volume. As in the older editions the pathology is beautifully described and illustrated. The translator has made a somewhat different arrangement by placing the remarks in fine print, which were massed as an appendix at the end of chapters or major divisions, in direct juxtaposition to the portion of the text with which it is related. The changes had the approval of the author. It may be only that as the old edition was, and is, our "Bible of Ophthalmology," the present arrangement does not seem as satisfactory.

To any student of ophthalmology, in fact, to any medical man, the possession of this book is a literary, as well as a medical necessity. Other books are nice to have occasionally. Of this one, one should have three copies; one in the office, one in one's library, one at the bedside—the doctor's bedside, of course. H. B.

Fats and Fatty Degeneration. Martin H. Fischer and Marian O. Hooker. New York. John Wiley & Sons, 1917.

This treatise of Fischer's on "Fats and Fatty Degeneration," shows all the good features of his previous publications developed to a high degree and naturally also suffers from similar defects. The book makes very interesting reading and presents much that is old from a refreshingly novel point of view. The technical part of the presentation is well nigh perfect. The preliminary summary and the later more amplified development of the subject are masterfully done. The illustrations are well chosen and convincing and in this effort at "morphological" perfection Dr. Fischer has been ably seconded by his publishers. "Functionally" and essentially his contributions in this work are by no means negligible. It is hardly to be imagined that the author really believes that he gives an entirely new theory of emulsions, because he uses old theories freely and abandons his own when necessary, f. i. in the case of "stretched" emulsions. His biological references when dealing with the effect of ether, chloroform and alcohol on certain emulsions are interesting, but can hardly be looked upon as more than "suggestive." His conception of fatty degeneration as the breaking of an emulsion of fat in protoplasm is a very ingenious one. That the fat, however, in the first place, is present in the form of an emulsion remains to be proved, because the fact that at present we cannot explain it in any other way, is no proof of this contention. I have also slight misgiving in reference to the author's positive statement that subcutaneous fat represents a water in fat emulsion because there are certain patent physical differences between this form of fat and such substances as butter, and morphologically the inclusion of water cannot always be proved. Nor can I see that Fischer's exposition adds as much to our knowledge of the mechanism of fatty secretions as seems to be implied by the author. If artificial milks have not as yet been prepared according to his recipe he has discovered a veritable egg of Columbus.

The two chapters "On the Mimicry of Mucoïd Secretion" and "On the Mimicry of Some Anatomical Structures" are hardly germane to the main subject and merely serve as examples of Dr. Fischer's unfortunate inclination for generalizations on rather slender premises which also makes itself rather harshly felt in spots in his concluding paragraphs.

In order to avoid misunderstanding, however, I wish to add that especially for the well informed, the careful study of Dr. Fischer's book is very profitable and distinctly stimulating. W. O.

Society Reports

MEETING OF THE EYE AND EAR SECTION.

The regular meeting of the eye and ear section, Los Angeles County Medical Association, was held at the offices of Drs. Frank Miller and Frank Edwards, 1020 Merchants National Bank Building, Los Angeles, Cal., April 9, 1917.

Attendance: Drs. Bullard, Brown, Dudley, Detling, Fleming, Graham, Ide, Kress, Lund, T. J. McCoy, Geo. W. McCoy, F. W. Miller, F. A. Miller, Old, Stivers, Swetnam, McKellar.

Visitors: Drs. Ross Moore, R. B. Hill, Jesberg, and Edwards.

Adjourned Meeting of April 2.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved. Dr. Old presented a case of foreign body in the left eye. Rivet piece located in vitreous, did not feel the injury except impact? Steel located by X-rays. Can piece be removed by magnet?

Dr. R. W. Miller: Think it can be removed by magnet unless buried in soft tunics.

Dr. Rogers: Had a similar case, steel size of pin